

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 254912

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:HHS AUENDERS

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - ALATHERTON, JR.

P - JJSISCO

S/S: JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 254912

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, IS

SUBJECT: SHIHABI INQUIRY ABOUT DIRECTION OF U.S. MIDDLE
EAST POLICY PLANNING

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

REF: DAMASCUS 4154

1. IN ORDER TO AVOID IMPLICATION THAT PROPOSAL BELOW HAS
ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE SADAT VISIT, YOU SHOULD GET WORD
TO SHIHABI AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE FOLLOWING
LINES:

WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE WITH HIM THE
POSSIBILITIES FOR A RANGE OF FURTHER MOVES IN THE NEGO-
TIATIONS. IT WOULD BE IDEAL FOR SHIHABI TO COME TO WASHING-
TON FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WE WOULD HANDLE ANY SUCH VISIT
IN LOW KEY. IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE --AND WE CAN UNDER-
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STAND IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR SYRIANS AT THIS STAGE-- WE

WILL ASK YOU TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON AFTER SADAT VISIT IN ORDER TO BE BRIEFED FULLY ON OUR THINKING AND TO BE INSTRUCTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEGINNING A DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT IN EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS SHIHABI HAS RAISED.

2. FYI. ASSUMING THAT SARG DOES NOT PICK UP SUGGESTION THAT SHIHABI COME TO WASHINGTON, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO PLAN TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT MAKING THIS APPEAR TO BE A CRISIS-TYPE TRIP. YOU SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE ON OR ABOUT NOVEMBER 6. END FYI.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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To: DAMASCUS
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